

TAKA-AKI SATO
U.S. Serial No. : Not Yet Known
(Continuation Application of
PCT/US99/21654, filed 17 September 1999)
Filed: Herewith
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REMARKS

This application is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/21654, filed 17 September 1999, designating the United States of America, which is a continuation-in-part and claims priority of U.S. Serial No. 09/156,191, filed September 17, 1998. Accordingly, the parent application, PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/21654, is pending today in the United States of America pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §363, and the subject continuation application is co-pending therewith in fulfillment of the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §120.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have hereinabove amended the specification on page 1 to insert the continuation data. Applicants maintain that the amendments made hereinabove do not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

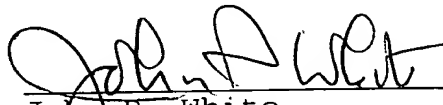
Claims 1-97 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment applicants have canceled claims 17-19, 23-37, 40-67, 69-89, and 91-97 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-16, 20-22, 38, 39, 68, and 90 will be pending and under examination.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

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No fee other than the filing fee of \$462.00, is deemed necessary in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. White
Registration No. 28,678
Attorney for Applicant
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 278-0400

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